



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Date: December 18th, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:15 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Executive Committee; Christopher Tonkin (chair), Scott Smith, Jack Johnson, Adam MacNeil, Muris Kobaslija, Daniel Amstutz, Stefan Miller,

Arlington Police Department: not in attendance

At Large: Rod Holland, David Creedon

1. Review/Approval of November Minutes

Corrections touched on: bike lane uprising

- **Motion** to approve as amended
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition

2. Report from COBWEB officer.

- No COBWEB office in attendance

3. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report.

- Price for the traffic signal at Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway was estimated at \$700k; bid price came a little higher than the budget but the Town is committed to constructing it by summer 2020.
- Discussed issues with snow removal in area east of underpass near Alewife. Removal appears worse than prior years.
- **Action:** will contact DPW to evaluate having a member attend on a regular basis.

4. Arlington High School rebuild:

- Detail design was completed and was \$29m over budget. \$5m was reduced, additional review is in process to find the savings. It was reported the connection to the bike path could potentially be removed from the design.
- **Action:** proposal to write a letter to the Arlington High School Building Project recommending the connection to the bike path be prioritized. Main points were discussed – supporting health and safety of the students; etc.. Jack will draft a letter for review & Christopher will send to the High School Building Committee.
- **Motion** to draft the letter, covering major points discussed
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition

5. Sustainable Transportation Plan:

- Received 4 proposal for consulting services to help develop the plan
- A committee reviewed and scored the proposals. Scores were close and interview were conducted. The firm Nelson/Nygaard was selected to work on developing the plan
- First meeting will be in mid-January

6. Bikeway signage: working group report.

- Question raised if ABAC should develop a budget proposal to implement signage the town council. Discussion included:
 - The inventory signs to be added and removed; mile makers, wayfinding on the path, wayfinding on the street, trail signs, cross walks, etc.
 - Plan to adopt Lexington design, with a slight increase in font size
 - There are safety benefits of the signage in the event of an emergency,
 - making the path more visitor / tourist friendly. Potential to coordinate with the Tourism Committee to add emphasis
 - more information is needed on where funding would be secured and if it would be a capital item or an operating expense.
 - The overall project could be prioritized and sequenced to facilitate implementation over time.

7. Application for CPA funds to study the Bikeway.

- The proposal was submitted to the CPA Committee.
- There were 7 letters of support; including ABAC, TAC, ACAC, the Town of Bedford, Mystic River Watershed Association, Walking in Arlington, and the Conservation Commission

8. Warrant Article for the removal or changing of the Bikeway hours.

- Chris attended a precinct meeting; most attendees were not aware there were hours of usage.
- Neither Lexington nor Bedford have curfew hours posted, few people are aware of the hours, not physically posted on the path.
- Captain Curran responded with a desire to meet in person. He also raised a concern about safety of path users outside the current curfew hours. Discuss a potential response:
 - There is no alternative between Alewife and Varnum St.
 - Bike path in winter is often better cleared than side walks and are safer for dog walkers
 - Suggest creating target times for requiring lights be in use.
 - **Action:** Adam will draft a talking points document.
 - **Agreed:** a few members will join Adam for the meeting. (Daniel, Chris, Rod)

9. Bike share update

- Lime contract ends in May and there is some question if Lime will renew with the MAPC, due to lower than desired usage.
- Lime bikes have been removed for the winter, next update from Lime will come in March when bikes would return for the season
- Blue Bike is a potential provider if Lime exits. There is a minimum of 5 docks required.
- Lyft (the Bluebikes operator) is exploring a hybrid dock / dock-less model, but this is still around 24 months in the future.

10. Arlington bike-parking guide any updates.

- Was completed by the Department of Planning & Community Development.
- It was reported as a news item advertised before Thanksgiving.

- Discussion included that some funding was requested for additional bike parking, This may be included in the budget for town fiscal year 2021.

11. Partnering with Arlington Community Education for a talk.

- ABAC agree to co-sponsor the event.
- A date has been identified and will be announced.

12. Doug G's interactive map. Linking to Town's website

- Agreed this is a feasible to establish, some modification to the format might be required.
- **Action:** Chris to discuss next steps with Doug.

13. ABAC Retreat part 2: setting a date and booking a room

- **Agreed:** Date for March 7th 9:30 – 12:00, followed by Lunch.
- Detail agenda to be developed and discussed in next two meetings.
- Parts of the senior center will not be available due to construction. Daniel Amstutz can help facilitate a meeting room elsewhere in the Senior Center or in another building.

14. Safety video.

- No update for this month, keep as an active item.

15. Annual Winter Social: venue and topic.

- Discussed potential topics that Daniel can either lead or moderate.
 - Proposed topic: Family Cycling & Sustainable Transportation (how do families in all stages of life actively cycle)
 - **Action:** Daniel and Muris will work on a format and potential panel members and a date.
- Chris reported on attending the Lexington winter social. Leadership of the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee is changing, with potentially a new direction under the new leadership.

16. Any other business.

- Nothing from Facebook
- Suggested topic for a future Fall Social to overview winter cycling, potentially Peter White as a speaker
- Fudge was provided and well received

17. Next ABAC meetings: Next Years' meetings:

- January 15; February 19; March 18; April 15; May 20; June 17; July 15; August 19; September 16; October 21; November 18; December 16
- **Note: The April 15th, November 18th, & December 16th will be held in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Town Hall Annex.**
- **Motion** to adjourn was made
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition